AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the binding of one or more metal ions to the β-amyloid peptide, which method comprises the step of exposing the peptide to a compound which blocks or destabilizes the N-terminal loop of the peptide, thereby inhibiting the binding of one or more metal ions to at least one histidine residue within the N-terminal loop, wherein said compound is a metal complex.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound has a conformation and polarity such that it binds to at least one histidine residue in the N-terminal loop of the β-amyloid peptide, selected from the group consisting of His6, His13 and His14.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, in which the compound binds to at least two histidine residues in the N-terminal loop.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, in which the compound binds to at least three histidine residues in the N-terminal lop.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound also binds to at least one additional amino acid in the N-terminal loop, selected from the group consisting of Asp7, Tyr10, and Glull.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound inhibits binding of Cu^{2+}, Zn^{2+} and Fe^{3+} ions, but not Mg^{2+} or Ca^{2+} ions.

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound is a complex of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ru, Pd, Ag, Cd, Pt, Au, Rh or Hg, with the proviso that the compound is not haemin or haematin.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, in which the compound comprises, or is conjugated to, a targeting moiety.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38, in which the targeting moiety targets the compound to a site defined by residues 15-21 on the β–amyloid peptide.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, in which the inhibition of binding of one or more metal ions to the β–amyloid peptide occurs *in vivo*.

41. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of Alzheimer's disease in a subject, which method comprises the step of administering a compound to said subject wherein said compound interacts with the β-amyloid peptide ~~in such a way that~~ whereby the N-terminal loop of the peptide is blocked or destabilized, thereby inhibiting the binding of one or more metal ions to at least one histidine residue within the N-terminal loop, wherein said compound is a metal complex.

42-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said compound is administered together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the peptide is exposed to said compound in the presence of at least one metal ion capable of binding the peptide.

46. (Canceled)